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OUTPUT OF RUBBER PRODUCTS IN COMMUNIST AREAS INCREASES

MORE RUBBER FACTORIES IN T' IEN-CHING -- Ta Kung Pao, 30 May 49

The number of rubber products industries in operation in T'ien-ching have increased since the liberation of this city and are making great progress in output and improved quality. With the exception of one factory which suffered comparatively greater losses in the battle for the city's liberation the other 65 (2 public and 63 private) have all resumed operations.

During March 1949, the 63 factories (including 2 public) in operation produced an aggregate of 26,444 sets of bicycle tires, over 118,800 pairs of rubber shoes, and 972 automobile inner tubes, representing an increase respectively of 51, 82.6, and 86 percent as compared with July 1948 production. In April 1949 the number of factories increased to 65 and rubber shoe production jumped to 60.9 percent over March. Two new factories, Hsing-kuang and Yu-chi, have opened recently. So far as mechanical equipment and output are concerned, this city now holds third place in the national rubber production field, following Shang-hai and Kuang-chow (Canton).

The Municipal Trading Company imported a large quantity of crude rubber from Hong Kong for direct supply to the factories here at lower than market price. Approximately 200 tons were distributed in this manner, solving the principal raw-material problem. There is an ample quantity of chemical materials because of the rich supply in Hong Kong. By granting loans, the Communications Bank has helped with the financial difficulties of the Ta-chung-hua, I-t'ang, Men-yang, Tai-lu, and other factories.

Increased production, equipment, and employment are the current goals of these factories. The number of persons employed in February 1949 was 1,110; by April 1949 it has increased to 1,746.

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The Rubber Parts Plant of the publicly controlled T'ien-ching Automotive Parts Factory has added two air-cooled vulcanizing machines and six polishing machines. The Nan-yang Rubber Factory (private) is preparing to bring in three 16-inch presses purchased at Yuan-yang (Ueda: 396, 12876).

SHEN-YANG RUBBER TOPS GOAL -- Ta Kung Pao, 29 May 49

Rubber output in Shen-yang (Mukden) since the city's liberation has exceeded its 6-month goal. Production of automobile inner tubes since November has exceeded estimates by 11 percent and pedicab tires by 72 percent. Other products such as rubber shoes and bicycle tires have reached or exceeded their goals. Some lines have exceeded the best production records of the period under KMT control. For instance, during KMT rule, the monthly production of automobile inner tubes was 150 tubes; 926 and 1,600 tubes respectively were manufactured during March and April 1949.

HONG KONG RUBBER EXPORTS TO NORTH CHINA -- Hua Shang Pao, 3 Jun 49

The urgent need of North China for rubber improves the transshipment picture for Hong Kong. Current exports are about 500 tons per month. This figure seems small as compared with normal times, but shippers believe that with peace returning to Shang-hai, the demand will soon return to 1,000 tons a month. At present, shipments to Northern Korea are somewhat less than earlier in the year.

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